

LIBRARY

EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT




REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

For the Year Ending 31st December,
1941

EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

For the Year Ending 31st December,
1941



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29180247>

EASINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman—

COUNCILLOR ELKANAH WM. TOFT.

Vice-Chairman—

COUNCILLOR WILLIAM LUKE.

COUNCILLORS :

Coun.	J. Barker	Coun.	W. S. Jackson
„	G. Barnes	„	T. Laing
„	E. Cain	„	M. Mann
„	T. Curry	„	J. P. McMann
„	A. Calvert	„	J. Moore, J.P.
„	E. Chicken	„	R.G.Nattrass, J.P.
„	R. M. Danby	„	Mrs. E. W.
„	A. Day		Nicholson
„	R. Dowson	„	Mrs. F. M. Peart
„	B. Edwards	„	E. F. Peart
„	W. Forster	„	H. Phillips
„	J. Foster	„	G. E. Pritchard
„	F. W. Fry	„	M. Purcell
„	T. Gallagher	„	R. G. Russell
„	J. P. Haley	„	G. W. Roseby
„	J. Henderson	„	C. Stonehouse
„	D. Henegan	„	J. Spowart
„	J. Hunter	„	W. Weightman
„	T. H. Irvine	„	Mrs. F. Winter
		„	G. White

Clerk—J. J. Waring (Solicitor).

Deputy Clerk—J. W. Gray.

Accountant—C. E. Potts, A.S.A.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health—W. GRANT, M.B.,
Ch.B, B.Hy., D.P.H., J.P.

Senior Sanitary Inspector—J. SAVAGE, C.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector—H. E. RAINE, C.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector—R. R. SHORT, C.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector—W. P. ELLIOTT, C.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector—D. L. WILKINSON, C.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Surveyor—C. W. CLARKE, A.M.I.Mech.E.,
F.I.A.S., A.M.I.S.E.

Cleansing Superintendent—W. ANGUS,
M.Inst.P.C.

Water Superintendent—R. BLAKEY.

Thorpe Infectious Disease Hospital Medical
Superintendent—W. GRANT, M.B., Ch.B.

Matron—Miss G. ATKINSON.

Easington Rural District.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1941.

EASINGTON,

Co. DURHAM,

August, 1942.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, the Ministry of Health ask that the Annual Report should be a brief one for obvious reasons.

There is little to comment upon, with reference to Statistics, but I would draw your attention to the increase in the Birth-rate. It is to be regretted that there was a slight but definite increase in the Infantile Mortality Rate.

The reduction in the incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases is a welcome feature but the Council should be aware that unless a

high standard of immunisation against Diphtheria is maintained, there is a danger of Diphtheria reasserting itself as a deadly disease.

The local A.R. Precautions scheme continued to show progress and a satisfactory standard of training was maintained during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. V. MACFARLANE,

Medical Officer of Health.

CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	34,653
Registrar General's estimate of resident population since 1941	...	...	...	...	76,040
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1941) according to Rate Book	...	...	...	...	21,011
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£304,670
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	£1,121

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS :—Live Births.

			Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	743	700	1443
Illegitimate	...	...	20	22	42
			<hr/> 763	<hr/> 722	<hr/> 1485

Birth rate per 1000 estimated resident population
19.7.

STILL-BIRTHS—

Legitimate	...	...	26	29	55
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	2
			<hr/> 27	<hr/> 30	<hr/> 57

Rate per 1000 total births 38.4.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Infants under 1 year—

Legitimate	...	...	61	46	107
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	2
			<hr/> 62	<hr/> 47	<hr/> 109

Death rate of all infants under one year per 1000 live births 73.4.

Death rate of legitimate infants under one year per 1000 legitimate live births 74.2.

Death rate of illegitimate infants under one year per 1000 illegitimate live births 47.6.

DEATHS.

			Male.	Female.	Total.
Total Deaths	...	...	489	395	884
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deate rate per 1,000 population 11.6.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was again a decrease from the previous year in the number of notifications of both scarlet fever and diphtheria.

SCARLET FEVER.—The number of notifications from this disease fell from 83 in 1940 to 60 in 1941.

Of these cases 50 were admitted to Thorpe Hospital. The great majority of the cases were mild and there were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA—This disease showed a decrease from 170 in 1940 to 124 in 1941, and there were 11 deaths.

During the year 762 children were immunised. Of the 124 cases of diphtheria admitted to Thorpe Hospital 42 had been immunised and there were no deaths but of the 82 admitted who had not been immunised 5 died.

			Cases of Diphtheria	Deaths
Immunised	...	...	33	None
Not Immunised	...	...	91	5

Surely that table speaks for itself and it is to be hoped that the parents or guardians of children will accept the free offer of the Council and have their children immunised. Application to their own Doctor or to the Medical Officer of Health will have immediate attention.

The following table shows the number of cases notified and deaths recorded from Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria during the past 5 years :—

Year		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		
		Notifications		Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
1937	290	1	391	28
1938	423	3	682	39
1939	187	None	418	22
1940	83	None	195	10
1941	60	None	124	11

As will be seen from the accompanying table Diphtheria was spread throughout the whole District.

CASES OF DIPHTHERIA NOTIFIED EACH MONTH DURING 1941.

Locality.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Blackhall ...	1	1	2	-	-	4	1	-	2	-	-	1	12
Wheatley Hill ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	4
Thornley ...	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
Shotton ...	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	3	-	-	2	11
Wingate and Station Town ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Easington ...	2	1	1	1	1	-	3	1	-	-	3	3	19
Murton ...	1	-	-	8	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	3	23
Horden ...	1	1	-	1	1	2	4	3	1	3	5	9	37
South Hetton ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Burdon ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hesleden ...	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Trimdon Station ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Hutton Henry ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Castle Eden ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals ...	7	3	3	9	12	9	11	9	11	7	11	24	124

During the year 325 cases were admitted to your Hospital as follows :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	212
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	50
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	19
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	9
Para-Typhoid	...	...	...	26
Measles ...	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Acute Adenitis	...	...	...	1
Pemphigus	...	...	...	1

10 of the cases sent in as Diphtheria were not confirmed, as was also 3 of Scarlet Fever, 7 of Para-Typhoid Fever and 3 of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

There were 18 deaths at Thorpe Hospital as follows :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	11
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia (1 complication from Meningitis)	...	...	...	2
Pemphigus	...	...	...	1
Diabetic Coma (complication from Meningitis)	...	...	...	1
Acute Adenitis	...	...	...	1

From Seaham Urban District 96 cases were received into your Hospital during the year suffering from the following diseases :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	72
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	15
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	4
Measles ...	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas...	...	...	...	2
Acute Adenitis	...	...	...	1

Bacteriological examinations made during the year were as follows :—

		Total	Positive	Negative.
Phthisis	...	148	25	123
Diphtheria	...	39	6	33
Para-Typhoid	...	7	—	7

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER. As most of our water comes from the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company the following is a typical result of the analytical and bacteriological examination of this water.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

				Parts per 100,000
Total Solids	...	...	...	49.60
Chloride	...	...	...	7.60
Nitrogen as Nitrates		...	...	0.30
Nitrogen as Nitrites		...	...	nil
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0004
Albuminoid Ammonia		...	...	0.0010
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hrs. at 37°C.)		...	...	0.0016
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate			...	28.00
Total Hardness	...	...	...	28.00
Colour (Hazen degrees)		...	...	2
Suspended Matter	...	...	...	nil

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINAION.

Organisms visible on agar after 48 hours incubation at 37°C. 2 per cc.

Acid and Gas production in Lactose Bile Salt Broth, 48 hours at 37°C., 1 cc. nil, 10 ccs. nil, 100 ccs. nil.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The removal and disposal of house refuse, etc., is carried out by the Cleansing Department for the whole area.

At present there are five Morris refuse collectors and four S. & D. Freighters working in the district together with twenty-three horse drawn vehicles. All vehicles for cleansing are provided with iron sliding covers which are a protection against spilling and also a prevention against any dust nuisance.

The refuse is disposed of by tipping, and this is done in layers as far as possible as a precaution against fire occurring.

The Cleansing Department is also responsible for the Salvage of paper, metal, rags and bones, which work was commenced at the end of April, 1940, and records prove that the collection of Salvage has been very successful. One motor vehicle is wholly engaged on Salvage.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The following conditions were found as the result of the inspections made in the district and dealt with :—

	Nuisances, etc.	Abated.
Dwelling Houses (Foul conditions)	5	4
(Structural Defects)	22	12
Waterclosets	41	39
Ashpits and privies	1	—
Deposits of refuse and manure ...	6	6
Defective yard paving	1	1
House drainage	37	35
Water supply	10	9
Pigsties	1	1
Smoke nuisances	2	2
New dustbins provided	37	22

VERMINOUS HOUSES.—Reports were received of 7 houses which were infested with bed-bugs. In all cases the houses were fumigated.

RAT INFESTATION.—A total of 10 complaints were received of rat infestations. Only on two occasions was it necessary to bring out the County Rat Officer, but in all cases the premises were visited and the usual advice given as to the most suitable method of eradication.

SMOKE NUISANCE.—Complaints were received regarding the Wellfield Co-operative Dairies, but this was due to the inability of the management to procure coke on one or two occasions. During these periods they had to use coal fuel for the boilers, consequently creating a nuisance due to black smoke. On the reversion to coke fuel, there have been no further complaints.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—All food shops and fish shops have been regularly inspected during the year and are generally satisfactory. 31 premises were registered under the Act.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—Regular inspection of bakehouses and factories was carried out and informal action was taken in some cases for minor repairs or renovations.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The procedure instituted in January, 1940, under which the Ministry of Food became sole purchaser of fat stock remain in operation and all such stock intended for human consumption in this area is slaughtered at Station Town Co-op. Abattoir. Original arrangements made by the Ministry for disposal of unsound meat under guarantee that such meat be not used for human consumption remain in force. Such meat is now stained with naphthalene dye before removal from the slaughter house.

Exception to the restriction on slaughtering is made to enable persons to slaughter pigs for home consumption subject to the issue of licences by the Local Food Control Committee, 394 of these licences were issued during the year.

Fewer animals were slaughtered in 1941 than during the previous twelve months and the culling of herds policy advocated by the Government was felt during this period, as evidenced by the greater percentage of condemnation. Stock slaughtered during the year and the incidence of disease is recorded in tabular form below.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number sl'ghtered at Government Slaughter House	1906 plus 15 Cas'ties	296 plus 37 Cas'ties	413 plus 12 Cas'ties	11687 plus 89 Cas'ties	1379 plus 37 Cas'ties
Number sl'ghtered under private license	—	—	1	3	390
Whole carcasses condemned (T.B. only)	8	11 plus 5 Casualties	1 Casualty	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned (T.B. only)	262		1 plus 1 Casualty	—	69
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	12.7%		0.7%	—	4.89%
Carcasses condem- ned (All diseases excluding T.B.)	5	1 plus 2 Casualties	14	19	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned (All dis- eases other than T.B.)	150		14	25	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	7.01%		3.1%	0.21%	0.21%

SUMMARY OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED DURING
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1941.

			Sts.	lbs.	
11	Carcases of Cow Beef ...	424	13		Generalised Tuberculosis
5	Carcases of Cow Beef (Casualty) ...	143	5		„
14	Forequarters Cow Beef	127	4		Tuberculosis
7	Carcases Heifer Beef ...	214	3		Generalised Tuberculosis
7	Forequarters Heifer Beef	72	5		Tuberculosis
1	Carcase Bullock Beef ...	38	11		Generalised Tuberculosis
6	Forequarters Bullock Beef	62	11		Tuberculosis
	Both foreqters. Bull Carcase	33	5		Tuberculosis
	All organs and offal of above Carcases ...	231	13		
1	Carcase Cow Beef ...	32	12		Multiple Tumours with Emaciation
2	Carcases Cow Beef (Casualty)	73	7		Septic Periton- itis
	Both thin flanks Cow (Casualty) ...	3	8		Peritonitis
2	Carcases Heifer Beef ...	43	7		Fevered conditn. with Emaciation
2	Carcases Bullock Beef ...	55	6		Septic Peritonitis
	All organs and offal of above Carcases ...	60	9		
	Pieces of Beef ...	45	13		Bruising, decomposition
1	Carcase Calf (Casualty) ...	5	1		Generalised Tuberculosis
1	Calf Head ...		11		Tuberculosis
1	Carcase Stirk (Casualty)	7	9		Pathological Emaciation
14	Carcases Calves ...	25	13		Immaturity
120	Beast heads and tongues	258	12		Tuberculosis
7	Beast heads and tongues	16	1		Actinomycosis
70	Beast lungs ...	46	1		Cysts, congestion etc.
238	Beast lungs ...	159	1		Tuberculosis
40	Beast livers ...	37	0		Tuberculosis, Angiomata, etc.

98	Beast livers and pieces ...	263	1	Cirrhosis
	Sundry Beast offal ...	73	5	Tuberculosis, decomposition, contamination, etc.
14	Carcases Sheep (6 Casualties)	45	12	Congestion, decomposition & severe bruising
5	Carcases Sheep ...	11	5	Dropsy and Emaciation
	Pieces of Mutton ...	6	8	Bruising, Abscesses
	Sheep offal (plucks, etc.)	23	2	Cysts, contam- ination, etc.
3	Carcases Pigs ...	39	5	Generalised Tuberculosis
3	Forequarters Pork ...	16	0	Tuberculosis
66	Pig heads and various offal	82	8	Tuberculosis
1	Pig Carcase ...	6	7	Suffocation
2	Pig Carcases ...	3	8	Immaturity
	Trimnings frozen pork ...	2	4	Mould
74	Tins Milk, Meat, Fish ...	7	3	Tins "Blown" or damaged
	Bacon, Flour, Cheese, Dried Fruit	14	5	Mould, contamination
2	Boxes Whiting Fish ...	5	0	Decomposition
Total Weight		2821	2	

17 Tons, 12 cwt., 5 sts., 2 lbs.

MILK SUPPLY.

During the year 124 inspections of dairies and cowsheds were made and the general condition of farms in the District was found to be satisfactory. Informal action has been taken for minor work in a number of cases.

There are now 3 producers of T.T. milk and 21 producers of Accredited Milk in the Area. In addition there are 96 non-designated wholesale and retail milk producers, a reduction of 4 non-designated producers during the year.

The pasteurizing plant situated at Wellfield has been visited and is operated with every care. 18 retailers of pasteurized milk are registered with this Authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938.

WILLIAM BARLOW & SON,

Printers

WEST HARTLEPOOL

P 9851